

Neglect and Self-Neglect

- ◆ Local departments of social services investigated more than 12,000 reports of adult abuse in Virginia last year.
- ◆ Reports of neglect (including self-neglect and neglect by a caregiver) account for more than 67 percent of all APS reports.
- ◆ The majority of neglect cases are those of self-neglect (44 percent).
- ◆ With time, it often becomes more difficult to care for oneself.
- ◆ The majority of neglect cases take place in situations where an adult lives alone or with a spouse.
- ◆ Local departments of social services investigate cases of neglect and self-neglect and may provide or arrange the following, when needed:
 - Home-based Services
 - Nutrition-related Services
 - Guardianship Assistance
 - Case Management
 - Adult Day Care
 - Assessment for Long-Term Care Services
 - Adult Foster Care
- ◆ Possible Indications of Neglect:
 - Poor hygiene, body odor or pressure sores
 - No running water, electricity or heat
 - Inadequate living arrangements (i.e. cluttered house, no running water, lack of electricity or heat, excessive accumulation of things including garbage)
 - Lack of basic needs (i.e. shelter, food, water, essential medical care or medication)



If you suspect abuse of an elder or an adult with disabilities, report it to the local department of social services, or call the 24-hour toll-free hotline at

1-888-832-3858.